



**Subject:** Fetal Cord Blood\*

**Effective Date:** March 1, 1997

**Department(s):** Utilization Management

---

**Policy:** The collection and preservation of fetal cord blood for future use is not reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

Testing of previously collected fetal cord blood for compatibility for transplant into a covered potential recipient is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc.

**Objective:** To insure proper and consistent reimbursement and to distinguish those aspects of the use of fetal cord blood that are reimbursable from those that are not.

**Procedure:**

- A. Requests for coverage of collection and preservation of fetal cord blood and/or peripheral blood stem cells for future use will be denied as this procedure is considered investigational.
- B. Requests for testing of fetal cord blood for compatibility for transplant into a covered member are subject to utilization review under the Plan's provisions for bone marrow and/or stem cell transplantation.

References:

Martin PL, Kurtzburg J, Hesse B. Umbilical cord blood: a guide for primary care physicians. *Am Fam Physician* 2011;84(6):661-6(Sep)

Thornley I, Eapen M, Sung L, et al. Private Core Blood Banking: Experiences and Views of Pediatric Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation Physicians. *Pediatrics* 2009;123(3):1011-1017 (Mar)

Sullivan MJ. Banking on cord blood stem cells. *Nature Rev Cancer* 2008;8(7):555-563 (Jul)

Samuel GN, Kerridge IH, O'Brien TA. Umbilical cord blood banking: public good or private benefit? *Med J Aust* 2008;188(9):533-535 (May 5)

Committee on Obstetric Practice, committee on Genetics. ACOG committee opinion number 399, February 2008: umbilical cord blood banking. *Obstet Gynecol* 2008;111(2Pt1):465-477 (Feb)

Fox NS, Chervenak FA, McCullough LB. Ethical considerations in umbilical cord blood banking. *Obstet Gynecol* 2008;111(1):178-182 (Jan)

Gunning J. Umbilical cord cell banking: An issue of self-interest versus altruism. *Med Law* 2007;26(4):769-780 (Dec)

Fox NS, Stevens C, Ciubotariu R, et al. Umbilical cord blood collection : do patients really understand ? *J Perinat Med* 2007;35(4):314-321 (Jan)

Lubin BH, Shearer WT. Cord blood banking for potential future transplantation. *Pediatrics* 2007;119(1):165-170 (Jan)

Braat DD, Mummery CL, Schattenberg AV, et al. Freezing umbilical-cord blood and bone marrow for one's own use: present-day quackery? *Ned Tijdschr Geneesk* 2006;150(44):2410-2414 (Nov 4)

Brunstein CG, Wagner JE. Umbilical cord blood transplantation and banking. *Annu Rev Med* 2006;57:403-417.

Barker JN, Wagner JE. Umbilical Cord Blood Transplantation. Ch 98 in Hoffman R, Benz EJ JR, Shattil SJ, et al. *Hematology: Basic Principles and Practice* 4<sup>th</sup> ed.. Philadelphia. Elsevier, Churchill, Livingstone. 2005.

Laughlin MJ, Eapen M, Rubinstein P, *et al.* Outcomes after Transplantation of Cord Blood or Bone Marrow from Unrelated Donors in Adults with Leukemia. *N Eng J Med* 2004;351(22): 2265-75 (Nov 25)

Rocha V, Labopin M, Sanz G, et al. Transplants of Umbilical-Cord Blood or Bone Marrow from Unrelated Donors in Adults with Acute Leukemia. *N Eng J Med* 2004;351(22):2276-2285 (Nov 25)

Steinbrook R. The-Cord-Blood-Bank Controversies. Perspective. *N Eng J Med* 2004;351(22): 2255-2257 (Nov 25)

Sanz MA. Cord-Blood Transplantation in patients with Leukemia—a Real Alternative for Adults. *N Eng J Med* 2004;351(22): 2328-2330 (Nov 25)

----- Cord Blood Banks. *Medical Letter* 2001;43:84-86 (October 1)

Fasouliotis SJ, Schenker JG. Human umbilical cord blood banking and transplantation: a state of the art. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol* 2000;90:13-25 (May)

Kline RM, Bertolone SJ. Umbilical cord blood transplantation: providing a donor for everyone needing a bone marrow transplant? *South Med J* 1998;91:821-828 (Sep)

Linden JV, Preti RA, Dracker R. New York State guidelines for cord blood banking. Department of Health. *J Hematother* 1997;6:535-541 (Dec)

Ademokun JA, Chapman C, Dunn J et al. Umbilical cord blood collection and separation for haematopoietic progenitor cell banking. Bone Marrow Transplant 1997;19:1023-1028 (May)

Wiley JM, Kuller JA. Storage of newborn stem cells for future use. Obstet Gynecol 1997;89:1049-1059 (Jun)

Drafted By: P. Zevin, MD 03/01/97

Approved By/Date: QM Committee 03/01/97

Revised By/Date: B. Fisher, MD 08/21/02; 09/18/02

Approved By/Date: QM Committee 10/22/02

Revised By/Date: B. Fisher, MD 02/21/06

Approved By/Date: QM Committee 03/28/06

Review without Revision By/Date: B. Fisher, MD 07/20/08

Approved By/Date: QM Committee 09/09/08

Review without Revision By/Date: B. Fisher, MD 07/12/10

Approved By/Date: QM Committee 07/27/10

Reviewed without Revisions By/Date: M. McNeil, MD 06/20/12

Approved By/Date: QM Committee 07/24/12

\*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.